

Legislative Briefing: Examining the Benefits of Mental Health Services in Schools

Wednesday, May 22nd

10 am to 11:30 am

Location: 2103 RHOB

Dear Colleague:

We wanted to alert you and your staff about a May Mental Health Awareness Month briefing **on Wednesday, May 22nd at 10 am in 2103 RHOB** on “Examining the Benefits of Mental Health Services in Schools”.

This briefing will examine the benefits of HR 1109, the Mental Health Services for Students Act, which would provide \$200 million in competitive grants for public schools across the country to partner with local mental health professionals to establish comprehensive on-site mental health care services for students. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, approximately one in five children have a diagnosable mental illness. It is also estimated that 75 percent of children with emotional and behavioral disorders do not receive specialty mental health services, despite the ability to diagnose these disorders as early as kindergarten in some cases. Without help, youth with untreated mental illnesses are more likely to fall victim to crime, imprisonment, or suicide later in life.

Confirmed speakers include:

- **Moderator/Overview of HR 1109: Michael Linskey, Assistant Director, Federal Government Affairs, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry**
- **Amy Beal, Judy Center Partnership Specialist, Maryland State Department of Education**
- **Emma McReady, a Junior at Woodrow Wilson Senior High School in Washington, D.C., is a suicide loss survivor and is passionate about destigmatizing mental health conditions and the need for broader support and access to mental health services.**
- **Parent**
- **School official**

Sponsors of this briefing include: American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, National Alliance on Mental Illness, National Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health, Mental Health America, and American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Warm regards,

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, Mental Health Caucus

John Katko
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, Mental Health Caucus